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MORMON BATTALION TRAIL STUDY

SANTA FE TO SAN DIEGO

June 1975

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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MORMON BATTALION TRAIL STUDY
(Santa Fe to San Diego)

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To: State Director, California State Office, Bureau of Land Management

From: Regional Director

Subject: Final study report on the Santa Fe to San Diego portion of the Mormon Battalion Trail.

For your information, we are enclosing the final version of the Bureau's Mormon Battalion Trail Study. The completed study has undergone full review and been transmitted to the President and the Congress by the Secretary of the Interior.

Frank E. Sylvester

Enclosure

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MORMON BATTALION TRAIL STUDY
(Santa Fe to San Diego)

JUNE 1975

Prepared By: Department of the Interior
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

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INTRODUCTION

Authority and Purpose

Section 2(a) of the National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968, (Public Law 90-543) sets forth the following policy statement for a national system of trails.

> In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open air, outdoor areas of the Nation, trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within established scenic areas more remotely located. The purpose of this Act is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a national system of recreation and scenic trails, by designating the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail as the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

The National Trails System Act created three types of trails: national recreation trails, national scenic trails and connecting or side trails. National recreation trails provide for a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or near urban areas. They may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or by the Secretary of Agriculture where lands administered by him are involved. National scenic trails are long distance trails that provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the area. They may be designated only by the Congress. Connecting or side trails provide access to or connect national recreation or scenic trails and may become part of the trail to which they are joined.

The Interagency Task Force on the Nationwide System of Trails, set up following passage of the Act, specified a number of criteria which national scenic trails should include:

1. The scenic, historical, natural and cultural qualities of the area through which the trail passes must be of superior quality to other trails.

2. These trails should be capable of promoting interest and attracting visitors throughout the country.

3. Highways, commercial and industrial development and any other activities that could detract from the trail experience should be avoided.

4. Trails which are historic in nature should be located as closely as possible to the historic event (exploratory trek, military march, migration route, etc.) being commemorated.

In addition to the two initial components of the National Trails System, 14 other routes were identified in the Act for future study and possible inclusion as national scenic trails. One of the study routes, as identified in Section 5(c)(3) of the Act, is the Mormon Battalion Trail, extending 2,000 miles from Mount Pisgah, Iowa, through Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona to Los Angeles, California.

The study, initiated in 1971, is legislatively required to determine the feasibility and desirability of designating the Mormon Battalion Trail as a component of the National Trails System.

Scope

The preliminary reconnaissance report on the Mormon Battalion Trail, completed in 1972, revealed that much of the route did not meet national scenic trail criteria. This was due prinicipally to the route's location being tied to a specific historic event, a more than 2,000-mile march, which took place across terrain which was found to be largely infeasible and undesirable for extended scenic trail purposes. Since several other of the 14 study routes were also based on historic events, it was decided that these trails be investigated in terms of a possible new category of study trail, national historic trails. Accordingly, the following evaluation of historical and recreation significance of the Mormon Battalion's route is based on its potential for national historic trail designation.

The reconnaissance study on the Mormon Battalion Trail ascertained that in marching from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe the Battalion used the already established Santa Fe Trail. The Battalion, however, did not take the normal route to Santa Fe by way of Bent's Fort, but instead used the shorter route called the Cimarron Cutoff. The Cutoff is regarded as part of the Santa Fe Trail. The route of the

Santa Fe Trail, listed in the National Trails System Act, is also being studied for national trail designation. Accordingly, the recreation evaluation for extended trail purposes of the Santa Fe Trail route will be made in a separate study.

This report on the Mormon Battalion Trail covers the trail-associated recreation potential of the Santa Fe, New Mexico to San Diego, California portion of the march. The historical evaluation of the Mormon Battalion's march includes the entire 2,000 mile distance from Council Bluffs, Iowa to San Diego.

Background and Assumptions

For the reconnaissance study of the Mormon Battalion Trail, the location of the historic route was determined by the Utah Historical Society, under contract to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The route as located by the Historical Society will be used in this report as the basis for evaluating historical and recreation values to determine suitability for national trail designation.

As mentioned earlier, Public Law 90-543 described the route as extending "from Mount Pisgah, Iowa, through Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona to Los Angeles, California". However, initial investigations revealed that the volunteers were recruited from several Mormon encampments strung out along the eastern bank of the Missouri River. These volunteers assembled and were officially mustered in as the Mormon Battalion at Council Bluffs. The Battalion's original destination was Los Angeles. However, before reaching there, the Battalion was ordered to proceed instead to San Diego from where its five companies were variously dispersed. Based on this information this study will consider Council Bluffs as the starting point for the march and San Diego as the terminus.

In evaluating the outdoor recreation potential of the route, a five mile-wide corridor was established as a zone of influence.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Historical Findings Summary

As an event in American history the 2,000-mile march of the Mormon volunteers from July 1846 to January 1847 across the plains, mountains and deserts of the American West has been acknowledged to be of epic proportions and worthy of national recognition.

Recreational Findings Summary

Based on the current constraints of land ownership and use, the recreational potential of the route which the Mormon Battalion took marching from Santa Fe to San Diego is, at best, limited. Some public areas which the route passes through have potential for trail use, but these are too scattered and of uneven quality to be of national significance for long-distance recreational trail purposes.

The detailed examination of the terrain which the route crosses revealed that it was not suitable for trail-associated outdoor recreation activities over long distances. While some areas through which the Battalion traveled may provide distinctive landscape features of local, or even regional significance, the uniform terrain along most of the route from where the Battalion left the Rio Grande to the southern California coast range offers the potential trail user little landscape variety for hundreds of miles. Moreover, large segments lack water, making their use for hiking or riding hazardous over any extended distance.

Conclusions

Combining the findings based on the evaluation of the march as a historic event with the findings based on the outdoor recreation potential of the lands over which the march took place, the Department of the Interior concludes that the merits of the former are not sufficient to overcome the deficiencies of the latter. Maintaining the historic integrity of the route taken by the Mormon volunteers immediately fixes the location of the Mormon Battalion National Scenic or National Historic Trail. Route flexibility is then no longer possible to take advantage of scenic areas, camping sites or interpretive areas, which is the fundamental basis for locating any recreation trail. Nor is it possible to avoid places where the historical route might coincide with highways, railroad lines, or commercial and industrial areas. These uses are usually found to be incompatible with recreation

trail use and, in some cases, may even be hazardous. Thus, the enjoyment of the potential trail user is diminished by attempting to maintain the integrity of a historic event. This is contrary to the fundamental purpose of Public Law 90-543, which is to establish trails for outdoor recreation use, not to commemorate historic events however worthy they may be.

Recommendations and Alternatives

The above conflict prevents the route of the Mormon Battalion from being either suitable or desirable for national trails designation under Public Law 90-543. Based on the foregoing, we do not recommend the route of the Mormon Battalion from Santa Fe to San Diego for incorporation into the National Trails System as a scenic or historic trail.

Short of national scenic or national historic trail designation for the route of the Mormon Battalion, there are other alternatives which can and should be explored as ways to commemorate the march. Selected portions of the historic route can be identified and interpreted by the coordinated efforts of appropriate Federal, State and local government agencies, along with elements of the private sector.

Box Canyon, at the end of a narrow gorge in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California, is the site where Battalion members using hand tools hewed a passage for their wagons through a rocky wall. The site has been marked with a plaque by the State of California as a Registered Landmark (No. 472). We judge this site to be worthy of national recognition and recommend that the National Park Service, working with California's State Liaison Officer and others, study the site for National Historic Landmark designation. Justification is based principally on the fact that this site is the only remaining on-the-ground evidence that can be traced directly back to the march of the Mormon Battalion. The Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Pacific Southwest Regional Office will be pleased to work with other involved agencies and provide historical documentation.

Where the route crosses the Bureau of Land Management-administered Forty Mile Desert and Green Belt Resources Conservation Areas southwest of the Phoenix Metropolition Area, national recreation trail designation may be suitable using existing unpaved roads and trails on Federal lands which follow or adjoin the route. National recreation trail designation would serve to complement and augment the nomination of like portions of the route for

inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, which is being considered by the Bureau of Land Management's State Office in Phoenix under Executive Order 11593. Any national recreation trails located in this area should be signed in such a manner so as to recognize the Mormon Battalion Trail route.

Picacho Peak Scenic State Park, north of Tucson, is adjacent to the route of the Mormon Battalion. In addition to Hunter Trail, already designated as a National Recreation Trail, other existing trails within this facility may qualify for national recreation trail designation by the Secretary of the Interior. It is recommended that the State Parks Board in Arizona apply to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's Pacific Southwest Regional Office for national recreation trail designation on a suitable trail or trails within the park and that the trail be signed in such a way as to recognize the route of the Mormon Battalion.

Another recommendation is that the New Mexico Division of Outdoor Recreation, as part of the State's proposed feasibility study for a state-wide trails system, consider establishing a trail along the Battalion's route in Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake State Parks. Such a trail's recreation value would be enhanced by signing and interpreting it with appropriate episodes of the Mormon volunteers march.

The route of the Mormon Battalion, as yet, has not been recognized in the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. This may be due to inadequate documentation rather than a lack of merit. It is recommended that the Mormon Battalion Trail be added to the New Mexico State Register. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation stands ready to assist the New Mexico State Planning Office by providing data collected during the study. Also the role of the Mormon Battalion should be added to the documentation on existing register entries such as the Santa Fe Trail and the Butterfield Overland Trail. For the latter entry, the name should be changed to Mormon Battalion Trail-Butterfield Overland Trail in areas where the two routes coincide.

The Department of the Interior recognizes the march of the Mormon Battalion as a historical event of national significance. Moreover, the Department acknowledges the considerable achievements of the U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc. in educating the general public and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the accomplishments of the Battalion. This national organization

of some 300 members has placed plaques and historical markers along highways which coincide with the historic route of the Mormon Battalion. Working with the various state highway departments, the U.S. Mormon Battalion has marked the route at selected sites in southeastern Arizona along U.S. 80 for a distance of 150 miles. Plaques have also been placed along roads and highways in the Tucson area, at Picacho, west of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, at Maricopa Wells and at Gila Bend. In Southern California, from the Arizona border to Calexico, plaques have been placed along State Route 98 and in eastern San Diego County along Route 2. A marker commemorating both the route of the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland State has been placed along U.S. 260 in southwestern New Mexico.

MORMON BATTALION TRAIL
(SANTA FE TO SAN DIEGO)
LEGEND
ROUTE LOCATION
INDIAN RESERVATIONS
PUBLIC DOMAIN
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
NATIONAL FORESTS
NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM
STATE PARKS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
0 20 40 60 80 100
miles
CALIFORNIA
NEW MEXICO
ARIZONA
MEXICO
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles
San Diego
ANZA BORREGO DESERT ST. PK.
Mexicali
Yuma
COLORADO RIV.
GILA RIV.
Phoenix
Florence
Tucson
SAN PEDRO RIV.
Douglas
Janos
Albuquerque
Santa Fe
RIO GRANDE
Socorro
BOSQUE DEL APACHE N.W.R.
Elephant Butte Res.
Caballo Res.
Hatch

WEXICO

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

Natural Landscape

The portion of the Mormon Battalion's route with which this report is concerned begins in Santa Fe in the Southern Rockies where the natural vegetation is a juniper-pinyon woodland association. From Santa Fe west toward the Rio Grande, the Battalion's Route crosses an eastern appendage of the Colorado Plateau where the natural vegetation changes to grassland of the grama-galleta steppe association. Turning south down the Rio Grande valley, the route enters Basin and Range topography. This type of landscape configuration extends across southern Arizona, southeastern California and south into Mexico.

The landscape of New Mexico which the route crosses consists of isolated, low and sparsely vegetated mountain ranges separated by wide desert plains and presents overall a rather parched appearance. Rainfall is low here and the evaporation rate high. The irrigated Rio Grande valley provides a marked contrast to the surrounding desert shrubs of saltbush and greasewood. A grama-tobosa shrub steppe vegetative association extends over the southeastern part of New Mexico, except in the vicinity of Elephant Butte Reservoir, where saltbush and greasewood predominate. The large playas in the southwest corner of New Mexico are devoid of any vegetative cover. In crossing the mountains in that part of New Mexico, the route goes through small pockets of oak-juniper woodland, which extend for a short distance into southeastern Arizona.

All of southern Arizona is Basin and Range topography and Sonoran Desert vegetation predominates throughout. Here summer temperatures frequently exceed 100 degrees F. and the annual rainfall amounts to only two to five inches. Shortly after entering Arizona the route crosses what is now the International Boundary entering the Mexican side of the border. The route continues on a course south of and parallel to the border until reaching the San Pedro River where it turns northward toward Tucson. The grama-tobosa shrub steppe association in the southeastern third of Arizona gradually gives way to a creosote bush-bur sage association interspersed with Palo Verde-cactus shrub. The San Pedro River contains no water except during the summer months, and riparian vegetation grows along its banks. North of Tucson, the route generally follows along the course of the Santa Cruz River, which has very little flow in most years.

The route next picks up the Gila River south of Phoenix and follows it to the Colorado River. As with most of Arizona's large rivers, the Gila has been impounded and is normally dry downstream from Florence. Since the Battalion picked up the Gila west (downstream) of Florence, this portion of the route is without water.

Crossing the Colorado River the route once again enters Mexico, this time in the State of Baja California. Creosote bush-bur sage association predominates here; in some areas vegetation is absent and the terrain consists largely of sand dunes. Irrigated farmlands exist along the Colorado River.

A few miles west of Mexicali, the route crosses back into the United States turning northwest through the California desert. Terrain and vegetation remain much the same until reaching the southern California coast range, where the natural vegetation becomes chaparral. Cresting the coast range, the route goes through California oakwoods. Chaparral is in evidence once more at the lower elevations on the western side and gives way to coastal sage and grasslands near the Pacific coast.

Cultural Landscape

Man's influence on the landscape is scarcely noticeable along most of the Mormon Battalion's route from Santa Fe to San Diego. The three-state region is too arid to support agriculture without large-scale irrigation. Agriculture is confined to the bottom lands along portions of the Rio Grande, the lower Colorado River area and other areas where irrigation is possible. Urbanized lands amount to only a little more than one percent of the distance of the total route. The most prominent features of the cultural landscape are railroads, highways and roads which parallel and sometimes cover the route.

Population density within a 100-mile zone of influence of the route is low, except for the Santa Fe to Albuquerque stretch, Tucson, the Phoenix Metropolitan area to the north, Mexicali in Mexico, and San Diego. The entire region of southwest New Mexico, northwest Mexico and southeast Arizona to the outskirts of Tucson, has a population average of less than ten per square mile. Similarly, southwestern Arizona and the southeast corner of California average less than ten persons per square mile.

The following cities and towns are located along the route of the Mormon Battalion:

	Population (1970 Census)
New Mexico	
Santa Fe*	41,000
Albuquerque*	243,000
Belen*	4,800
Socorro*	4,700
Truth or Consequences	4,700
Arizona	
Tucson*	263,000
Yuma*	29,000
Eloy	5,300
Douglas	12,400
Benson	2,800
Casa Grande	10,500
Coolidge	4,600
Chandler	13,700
Phoenix	581,000
California	
Calexico	10,600
El Centro	19,200
Oceanside	40,500
Carlsbad	15,000
San Diego*	697,000
Mexico	
Mexicali	500,000

Ownership

The historic route of the Mormon Battalion from Santa Fe to San Diego crosses most of New Mexico and all of Arizona and California. In two places the route dips below the International Boundary into Mexico. The entire distance spans 1,132 miles, 1,034 miles within the United States and 98 miles within Mexico. The New Mexico portion includes 437 miles of the route, Arizona 413 miles, and California 184 miles. The Mexican State of Sonora includes 33 miles of the route and the State of Baja California 65 miles.

* Crossed by route of the Mormon Battalion.

The 1,034 miles of lands within the United States include the following jurisdictions:

Private Ownership, Total			318 miles
Railroad rights-of-way		98 miles	
Urbanized Area		20 miles	
Undeveloped		200 miles	
Indian Lands			73 miles
Public Ownership, Total			643 miles
Federal Lands, Total		297 miles	
National Park Service	2 miles		
U.S. Forest Service	46 miles		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	10 miles		
Bureau of Land Management	142 miles		
Bureau of Reclamation	46 miles		
Department of Defense	51 miles		
State and Local Government lands, Total		108 miles	
State Parks	35 miles		
Highway rights-of-way		238 miles	
			1,034 miles

HISTORICAL EVALUATION

Narrative of March

The following narrative relates the march of the Mormon Battalion. Its intended purpose is twofold: first, to clarify what role that march played in our history; and second, to set the stage for conclusions on the historical significance of the march.

The impetus for the historic march of the Mormon Battalion was tied to two significant events in United States history: the annexation of California and the migration of the Mormon pioneers in search of their Zion.

For political and religious reasons Brigham Young and other leaders of the Mormon church had decided to migrate West to unsettled country. Funds were desperately needed by the Mormons to purchase supplies for the upcoming migration. At this same time, President Polk, anticipating a war with Mexico, wanted to get Americans to California as quickly as possible. President Polk and Brigham Young were able to work out an arrangement which made it possible for each to carry out their desired objectives. The arrangement was the formation of the Mormon Battalion. This provided President Polk with some 500 infantry volunteers to augment the newly formed Army of the West bound for California under General Kearny. Concurrently, it was the means whereby Brigham Young was able to secure funds to purchase the much needed supplies for the Mormon migration, since the volunteers were to be paid a clothing allowance and a month's pay at the time of their enlistment. Most of this money was turned over by the volunteers to their families and to the church.

The Battalion members were recruited from the temporary Mormon settlements strung out along the east side of the Missouri River in Iowa. From there they were marched to Council Bluffs, where they were mustered into the U.S. Army for a one-year enlistment period. Their orders were to travel overland to California using the Santa Fe Trail for the first part of the journey and from Santa Fe west, to establish a wagon road all the way to the Pacific coast. The Battalion was to follow the route taken earlier by the mounted dragoons of the Army of the West, who had been ordered to occupy California.

On July 16, 1846, the newly formed companies of the Mormon Battalion, along with the wives and children of several of the officers and men, set out from Council Bluffs proceeding down the east bank of the Missouri River to Fort Leavenworth. Here at Fort Leavenworth the

Battalion's well-liked commander, Captain Allen, took ill and was forced to remain behind. The Battalion continued on, marching from Fort Leavenworth across what is now Kansas along the already established Santa Fe Trail. Instead of proceeding the usual way by Bent's Fort, as had the Army of the West, the Battalion turned south taking the shorter and drier route to Santa Fe via the Cimarron Cutoff. Many of the women and children who had accompained the Battalion from Council Bluffs and several of the volunteers became exhausted along this grueling march. Consequently, the Battalion was split up, the stronger members pushing on while the weaker were left to get to Santa Fe as best they could. Most of the women and children abandoned the march before reaching Santa Fe and headed north up to Pueblo.

At Santa Fe, Colonel Philip St. George Cooke, who was with the Army of the West, was ordered back by Kearny to take over command of the Battalion. Cooke, an able commander, wisely decided to send the sick and disabled volunteers to Pueblo where they, along with the women and children, would be in a position to join the main westward Mormon migration planned for the following Spring. The main body of the Battalion pushed on, leaving Santa Fe in the middle of October heading down the west bank of the Rio Grande. It was a difficult march compounded by a shortage of supplies and the difficulty with which the loaded wagons rolled on the sandy river bank. The Battalion, up to this point, had been following the tracks of Kearny's Army of the West. Encountering rugged terrain which slowed him down, Kearny had sent his wagons back to Santa Fe and, leaving the Rio Grande, headed due west for the headwaters of the Gila River. Cooke, mindful of his mission to establish a wagon road, continued for some distance down the Rio Grande before leaving it and turning westward. Fully cognizant of the ordeal ahead, he once more culled the Battalion of the remaining weak and disabled, who were sent back to Santa Fe. Crossing what is now southwestern New Mexico, the march was slowed by the Mimbres Mountains. Knowing that there were more mountains ahead, Cooke's guide recommended that the Battalion march south and go around them by following the old ore road all the way to Janos before turning west. Anxious to go by the most direct route, Cooke decided to continue on in the southwesterly direction across the mountains and desert. On November 22, the Battalion reached large playas in what is now southwestern New Mexico. At the lake beds, wells were dug and Cooke allowed for a day's layover while men and animals recuperated. Here also Cooke fortunately was able to secure fresh mules from friendly Mexicans to replace those which had broken down. The Guadalupe Mountains now lay before the Battalion and crossing this range proved to be a particularly rugged task. In order to get wagons through a narrow gorge in the steep west side of the range, the wagons had to be dismantled, let down with ropes and then reassembled.

The Battalion continued its march across the southeastern corner of present-day Arizona. At this point, the Battalion's line of march had taken them below the present International Boundary. They were able to replenish their short rations here with bull beef when they encountered a wild longhorn herd near the ruins of the old Spanish settlement of San Bernardino. They continued in a westerly direction until reaching the San Pedro River, where they turned northward down the river valley. Along the San Pedro, the Battalion "fought" its only engagement when they were set upon by wounded longhorn bulls which, before being dispatched by rifle fire, killed and wounded several mules and injured a few of the men.

Leaving the San Pedro River on December 14, the Battalion took a northwesterly course toward Tucson, the only Mexican stronghold between the Rio Grande and the Colorado River. Cooke was determined to subjugate the Mexican garrison there. Issuing arms and ammunition and forming the companies of the Battalion in march order, he entered Tucson only to find that its defenders had fled. After resting for a day at Tucson, the Battalion once again took up the march toward the Pima Indian villages along the Gila River. This 90-mile trek to the Gila across waterless country has never been equaled by a march of infantry in United States military history.

On December 21, the Battalion finally reached the Gila River where they once again picked up Kearny's trail. Reaching the Pima villages on the following day in an exhausted condition, the Battalion was warmly received by the friendly Indians and stayed with them until Christmas Day.

The next leg of the Battalion's journey was the cutoff across the great bend of the Gila River, called the Forty-Mile Desert. After a dry and rugged march, the Battalion reached the Gila once more and followed along its banks. This proved to be rough going since the banks were entirely of sand and the wagons once again had to be pushed and pulled by men as well as mules. A plan was devised by Cooke to alleviate this backbreaking work: two wagons were converted to boats and loaded, to be floated down the Gila. The idea was for the main body of the Battalion to march on unencumbered and rejoin the loaded rafts at the end of each day's march. This proved to be an unsuccessful experiment for the river was too swift and shallow and the makeshift rafts immediately piled up on sandbars and had to be lightened to be pulled off. So rather than being in front of the marching Battalion as planned, the rafts were now behind. Moreover, a detail had to be sent back to salvage as much as possible of the abandoned supplies. Forced to move on with reduced rations, the

Battalion reached the Colorado River on January 9, 1847. After a hazardous crossing of the Colorado in which several mules were lost, the Battalion continued on, once again having dropped below the present-day International Boundary. At this point Cooke decided to send the strongest men and mules ahead to locate provisions and fresh mules and drive them back to the exhausted main body.

The five-day trek across the California desert, carried out while the Battalion was on quarter rations, pushed the volunteers to the limit of their endurance. On the western edge of the Imperial Valley, the Carrizo River was reached. Shortly thereafter, the advance party returned with the sorely needed provisions. The replenished Battalion set off once more, heading northwest for Warner's Ranch. Before reaching this outpost, they encountered a rock-walled canyon so narrow that the volunteers had to hew an opening in the rocks with hand tools to get wagons through. Despite their backbreaking effort to complete the wagon road, the Battalion entered Warner's Ranch in military formation. The Battalion's long laborious journey across the Great American Desert was now nearly over; all that lay before them were the hills of the coast range of southern California, green from winter rains, a dramatic contrast with the parched landscape they had just crossed.

Dropping down toward the coastal plain near the San Luis Rey Mission, the Battalion members viewed for the first time, the "great Pacific Sea". Turning south, the volunteers walked along the El Camino Real, the road built earlier by the Spanish to connect the California missions strung out along the coast. On January 29, 1847, the Mormon volunteers reached their goal, picturesque San Diego de Alcala Mission. The Mormon volunteers had undertaken and completed a six-month, more than 2,000-mile odyssey across terrain partly uncharted and mostly inhospitable. Of the some 500 Battalion members and their families (79 women and children) who had started out from along the Missouri River some six months earlier, only 376 volunteers, five women and six children arrived at San Diego. The weak and disabled, together with most of the women and children, had been sent back from various points along the way and some 20 had died enroute. At journey's end, it remained for Colonel Cooke to fittingly sum it all up with the following words:

> " ... History may be seached in vain for an equal march of infantry. Nine-tenths of it has been through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found, or deserts where, for want of water, there is no living creature. There, with almost hopeless labor, we have dug wells,

which the future traveler will enjoy. Without a guide who had traversed them, we have entered into trackless prairies where water was not found for several marches. With crowbar and pick and ax in hand, we have worked our way over mountains, which seemed to defy aught save the wild goat, and hewed a passage through a chasm of living rock more narrow than our wagons .... Thus, marching half-naked and half-fed, and living upon wild animals, we have discovered and made a road of great value to our country .... "

Historical Findings

Based on the above narrative, the following can be said of the Mormon Battalion's trek:

1. It was the longest sustained march by infantry in United States military history.

2. It was a pioneering effort in that the Battalion's wagons were the first to traverse the American Southwest to the Pacific Ocean. Historical maps of the Southwest published after the march attest to this by showing the western portion of the Battalion's route as "Cooke's Wagon Road".

3. The portion of the march from just below present-day Caballo Reservoir to where the Battalion first reached the Gila River comprises the extent of Cooke's departure from the route taken by Kearney's mounted dragoons. The Mormon volunteers, their leader and guides were here treading on new ground.

4. The march of the Mormon Battalion played a significant part in opening up a vast area which subsequently became a part of the United States and across which the Butterfield Overland Mail and Southern Pacific Railroad later were routed.

5. The incredible march of the Mormon volunteers of Colonel Cooke's infantry battalion is justifiably extolled by the Mormon people as a remarkable exhibition of faith, determination and endurance. It is unquestionably deserving of this recognition and more.

RECREATIONAL EVALUATION

The following is an appraisal of the trail-associated outdoor recreation potential which the historic route of the Mormon Battalion possesses today. The recreation appraisal consisted principally of an inventory of existing and potential outdoor recreation sites and areas along the route. Also, the overall suitability of the natural landscape of the route for trail-associated outdoor recreation was evaluated.

Public and Indian Lands

To facilitate the evaluation of the recreation potential, which includes scenic, hiking, riding, camping and interpretive (historic and geologic) values, a worksheet (Table I), along with detailed instructions and maps were sent out to those public land managing agencies and Indian reservations whose jurisdictions were crossed by the historical route of the Mormon Battalion. The purpose of the worksheet was to obtain the land managers' appraisal of the quantity and quality of existing and potential outdoor recreation areas and sites on their lands and on adjacent private lands. The inventory information was to include all existing and potential recreation areas and sites within a five-mile wide corridor centered on the route.

The following is a summarization of the information received on the worksheets from the various land managing agencies along whose land the historical route of the Mormon Battalion has been located.

Bureau of Land Management:

Portions of the National Resource Lands (public domain), which the route crosses in southwest New Mexico, have been identified by BLM as possessing considerable potential for historical and natural interpretation. The Fort Cummings Recreational Complex (6,240 acres), located southwest of Hatch, includes the ruins of that historic fort which was maintained as an outpost by the U. S. Army from 1863 to 1891. The Army constructed a road (Cooke's Wagon Road) along this portion of the Battalion's march. This road is shown on maps today as the Butterfield Road, named after the stage company whose route followed portions of the one pioneered by the Battalion. Remnants of a Butterfield stage depot are also still visible along this road. Also the petroglyphs examined by the Mormon volunteers more than 130 years ago can still be seen.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS AND SITES

L Local
S Statewide
N Nationwide

CAMPING POTENTIAL
SCENIC QUALITY
HIKING POTENTIAL
RIDING POTENTIAL
INTERPRETIVE POTENTIAL

A- TOPOGRAPHY
B- VEGETATION
C- VULNERABILITY
D- ACCESSIBILITY
E- LAND USE

Administering Agency _____

		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									
		SIZE (acres)						A	B	C	D	E
		LAND	WATER									

TABLE 1

Another site on National Resource Lands in New Mexico which BLM has identified as having recreation potential for historical interpretation is the abandoned railroad at Vista northwest of Hatchita. The old railroad line intersects the route of the Battalion.

The area in southwest New Mexico along the upper part of Guadalupe Canyon just east of the Coronado National Forest also has been identified by BLM as a nationally significant nature study area for research purposes. Recreation use of these lands, however, is not desirable since management for public recreation is usually not compatible with carrying out scientific research.

Crossing into southeastern Arizona, the route of the Mormon Battalion passes through small tracts of National Resource Lands. There are no sites currently being used for outdoor recreation activities in this area, nor does BLM's Safford District Office anticipate any at this time.

South of Phoenix, the route crosses two major BLM administrative areas, the Forty-Mile Desert (53,120 acres) and the Green Belt (40,000 acres) Resource Conservation Areas. On these National Resource Lands, classified for retention and multiple use management, outdoor recreation activities consist largely of the use of off-road vehicles (ORV). The Green Belt Area is a prime dove hunting area. The Bureau of Land Management's State Office in Phoenix is considering the nomination of the Butterfield Stage Route-Mormon Battalion Trail to the National Register of Historic Places under Executive Order 11593.

Under Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Patent, two parcels of public domain lands which the Battalion's route crosses have been transferred to the State of Arizona. These are now Picacho Peak Scenic State Park (2,560 acres) and Painted Rock Historic State Park (130 acres). The former, having been the site of the westernmost battle of the Civil War, has historic value. Riding and hiking trails and picnicking facilities exist within this facility. Painted Rock Historic State Park, the site of Indian petroglyphs, also possesses historic value.

In California, the route of the Mormon Battalion crosses National Resource Lands from where the route enters the United States west of Mexicali northwest to Plaster City and beyond. This is within BLM's California Desert Plan Program area and has been recognized as an area rich in paleontological, archeological and historical values. In this area BLM restricts all travel to designated roads and trails.

U. S. Forest Service:

In southwest New Mexico less than five miles of the route falls within the boundaries of the Coronado National Forest. Here the Forest Service has identified a single potential site of low scenic quality with limited potential for hiking and riding use. There are no existing recreation sites.

In southern California the route passes alongside a portion of the Cleveland National Forest. There are a number of existing sites and areas along the route corridor being used for outdoor recreation activities. Within the Cleveland National Forest and adjacent to the route, the Forest Service has developed Oak Grove (90 units) and Dripping Springs (25 units) Campgrounds. North of Dripping Springs and just outside of the national forest, Butterfield Country (2,200 acres), a private campground containing more than 700 units and a large lake, is utilized principally as an ORV (off-road vehicle) area. Additionally, two historic sites, designated as State Historical Landmarks, are identified by plaque and monument along this portion of the route. One site marks the location of Camp Wright, which was established by the U.S. Army to keep open communication between California and Arizona from 1860 to 1866. The other, Oak Grove, is one of many stations along the Butterfield Stagecoach Route operated between San Francisco and the Eastern Territories from 1858 to 1861. In this area, as in many others, the Butterfield Stage followed the Mormon Battalion's route. These sites are all located adjacent to State Highway 79.

The proposed Agua Tibia Wilderness is located within the Cleveland National Forest just to the south of the Mormon volunteers' route. The proposed alignment of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail intersects the Battalion's route south of the Cleveland National Forest. The entire portion of the Cleveland National Forest, alongside which the route passes, is kept closed to the public during the fire season due to the extremely high fire hazard.

Bureau of Indian Affairs:

In New Mexico along the Rio Grande, the Mormon Battalion route passes through the San Felipe, Santa Ana, Sandia and Isleta Reservations and near the pueblos located in each. There are presently no sites or areas being used for outdoor recreation along the trail route on these Indian lands. The Isleta Pueblo is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites and it is possible other pueblos could qualify for historical interpretation classifications.

Any nomination for historical site classification would have to come from the respective Tribal officials. No plans have been developed by BIA or the Tribes relative to the Mormon Battalion Trail.

In California, the route travels alongside three Indian Reservations, Santa Ysabel, Pechanga and Los Coyotes. All three are Bands of the Mission Indians. At the wish of the Santa Ysabel and Pechanga Bands, their respective reservations are kept closed to the public. A portion of the Los Coyotes Reservation is open to the public, but no existing or anticipated recreation sites are located within.

Bureau of Reclamation:

The route of the Mormon Battalion along the Rio Grande in New Mexico extends along some 46 miles of Federally-owned Bureau of Reclamation lands. The Bureau has constructed two dams on the Rio Grande, Elephant Butte and Caballo further downstream. These two dams, in backing up the river, have created two large reservoirs along the river valley. Approximately 20 miles of the historical route are now beneath the waters of these two reservoirs.

The New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission administers as state parks all the land and water outdoor recreation areas for these two reservoirs. The Bureau of Reclamation has cooperated with the State in developing specific sites for water-oriented recreation, camping and picnicking use in the two State Parks. Road access to these developed sites in the park is excellent. The New Mexico State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates that Elephant Butte Lake State Park ranks highest in attendance for New Mexico's State Park System and Caballo Lake State Park is not far behind. Much of this use is water-oriented (boating, water skiing and swimming).

In southwestern Arizona near the mouth of the Gila River, the Bureau of Reclamation has a Reclamation Withdrawal* on several parcels of public domain lands. The Bureau of Land Management, however, has retained jurisdiction over the recreation and wild-life management of these lands. The route of the Mormon Battalion crosses about four miles of these lands. The surrounding area is mountainous and inaccessible by auto, and no significant use is being made of it at the present time, recreation or otherwise.

* Obtained by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1929 for the Colorado River Storage Project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Ten miles of the route crosses the 57,000 acre Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. The refuge is bisected by U.S. Highway 85 which closely parallels the location of the historic route. The refuge has high scenic and interpretive value, but little potential for hiking or riding, and none for camping. The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a little less than half of the refuge for wilderness classification.

California Department of Parks and Recreation:

The historical route crosses some 35 miles of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California. For most of this distance the existing park road follows along the trail corridor. Within the park there are several developed camping sites and road access is good.

Department of Defense:

The route both crosses and adjoins lands controlled by the Department of Defense. Most of these lands fall into the category of gunnery/bombing ranges, test and impact areas and proving grounds which are administered by the Air Force or Navy. These areas are scattered and located in out-of-the-way places with limited access. They are generally closed to public entry. With one exception these areas contain no outdoor recreation areas or sites. The exception is an area east of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Bureau of Reclamation has leased these lands to the Navy for military purposes and the Bureau of Land Management has an agreement with the Navy to issue permits for organized competitive ORV events here. The remaining DOD areas are categorized as reservations or bases with public entry controlled by the military.

Highways:

The remaining public lands which the historical route crosses consist of nearly 250 miles of public highway right-of-way in the three-state area. In these cases, the historical route and the present highway right-of-way immediately adjoin each other. Moreover, the route is paralleled by several hundred additional miles of public highway right-of-way. In many cases, these highway alignments run alongside a railroad right-of-way. These later routings of major transportation corridors along portions of the historic Mormon Battalion route underscore the significance of the Battalion's early route selection in establishing the best and most direct way across the American Southwest to the Pacific Ocean.

In New Mexico along the west side of the Rio Grande, the rights-of-way of Interstate 25 and U.S. 85 follow the general trend of the historical Mormon Battalion route from Santa Fe south to a point just below the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. For the greater part of this distance, a railroad right-of-way also runs alongside the highway. South of the refuge, the highway/railroad alignment separates from the historical route then joins it again south of Elephant Butte Reservoir, separating once more below Caballo Reservoir.

The right-of-way of Interstate 10 picks up and generally follows the historical route where the Battalion left the San Pedro River to turn toward Tucson. North of Tucson, the Interstate 10 right-of-way parallels the route for some 50 miles. Here again, a railroad right-of-way follows alongside the highway. In the southwest corner of Arizona, once again a highway alignment, this time Interstate 8, is adjacent to the historical route for several miles on both sides of the town of Yuma.

The California portions of the route are crossed and paralleled by portions of State Highway 79 which runs along the east side of a portion of the Cleveland National Forest. Entering the outskirts of the City of San Diego the present alignment of U.S. 101 more or less follows the historic route.

Private Lands

The Mormon Battalion's route crosses more than 300 miles of private lands. This includes nearly 100 miles along railroad rights-of-way and about 20 miles of urbanized lands. Much of the railroad right-of-way is in southern Arizona along the San Pedro River. Most of the remainder is in scattered segments along the west side of the Rio Grande in New Mexico. Once again, the location of these rights-of-way along the historic route is more than coincidental; one of the Battalion's most important achievements was its success in pioneering a useful and important transportation corridor through the Southwest.

The urbanized land includes the cities of Santa Fe, Albuquerque and San Diego. Other private lands are located principally along the Rio Grande and lower Gila River. Land use here is mostly ranching, grazing and some small pockets of agricultural use. Butterfield Country, the large ORV area and campground located next to the Cleveland National Forest, is the most significant privately owned and operated recreation site adjoining the Mormon Battalion's route. Lands on the Mexican side of the border are in private ownership. Significant portions of these lands are in non-productive uses.

Landscape Suitability for Extended Trail Purposes

To supplement the recreation evaluation of the public, Indian and private lands which the route crosses, a survey was made to evaluate the overall suitability of the adjacent natural and cultural landscape for trail-associated outdoor recreation use.

The expanse of the route from where the Battalion left the Rio Grande, just south of present-day Caballo Reservoir, across southwestern New Mexico and southern Arizona to the coast range of southern California comprises nearly three-quarters of the Santa Fe to San Diego march. This entire area is Basin and Range topography, where the terrain consists of broad plains intersected by low mountain ranges running generally north-south. Except in those areas where man has built cities and towns and irrigated the land for crops, there is little greenery in this arid region.

The historical route of the Mormon Battalion winds its way across more than 750 miles of this Basin and Range country, and throughout, the natural landscape remains unvaried. Vegetative cover is sparse, mostly desert shrub interspersed with short grass. There are small isolated woodlands at the higher elevations and riparian vegetation along the banks of the larger rivers. Summer temperatures are high, often exceeding 100 degrees F.

Most outdoor recreation activities associated with trails in this region take place in and around the larger urban areas. A number of private trail riding groups are located in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, located north of the route. The bulk of their horsebacking activities takes place along old sheep driveways and park trails to the north and east of Phoenix. The area to the south where the Mormon Battalion Trail is located presently does not receive much trail-associated recreation use.

Recreation Findings

The overall recreational analysis brought to light a number of significant items regarding the route of the Mormon Battalion. Based on the completed worksheets, the following findings were made for those public and Indian lands which the route crosses or adjoins:

1. The more than 50 miles of the route which cross lands administered by the Department of Defense, including Air Force and Navy Bombing and Gunnery Ranges, are areas to which public entry is either

closed or controlled. Moreover, present and potential trail-associated outdoor recreation areas and sites on these lands are non-existent.

2. The approximately 70 miles of state and local government lands (other than parks) which the route crosses possess very limited potential for trail-associated outdoor recreation use. These lands usually lack road access and are interspersed with private and public domain lands. None of these areas are presently being used for outdoor recreation.

3. The route is adjacent to portions of the Cleveland National Forest. These national forest lands do possess sites and areas with hiking, riding, camping and historical value, and have potential for further development. During the summer months when the fire hazard is extremely high, these same lands are closed to the public.

4. The remaining public lands on which the worksheets provided information have some outdoor recreation potential for trail use. Specifically, the short stretch of the Coronado National Forest, the State-administered Bureau of Reclamation areas along Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs, the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, all in New Mexico; Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in California, and significant portions of the National Resource Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona.

5. The more than 70 miles of Indian lands which the route crosses may have some potential for developing trail-associated outdoor recreation use, particularly those located along the Rio Grande in New Mexico, which have historic value. The extent and type of public access through Indian lands is determined by the respective Tribal Councils. Two of the reservations in California which the route travels alongside are kept closed to the public by the Tribes.

The route of the Mormon Battalion's march, as identified by the Utah State Historical Society, includes some 238 miles within public highway rights-of-way. Many of these sections have been too highly developed to be feasible or desirable for trail-associated outdoor

recreation use. Moreover, they are in scattered segments stretching from Santa Fe to San Diego. Several hundred additional miles of the route parallel and intersect public highways. Much of the highway right-of-way runs alongside a railroad line.

The following conclusions on the more than 300 miles of private land which the route crosses were drawn from a survey of land use studies and maps and from information supplied by the Utah State Historical Society:

1. Nearly 100 miles of the route are along existing railroad rights-of-way and therefore not conducive to a good recreation trail experience.

2. About 20 miles pass through urbanized lands where trail-associated outdoor recreation potential is low.

3. The remaining 200 miles in private ownership are in scattered parcels devoted mostly to ranching and grazing. Some private lands located along the Rio Grande and Gila River, are being used for agriculture. Trail potential on these lands is generally low.

Mormon Battalion Trail Study

APPENDIX

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCY COMMENTS

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SANTA FE
87501

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

October 9, 1974

The Honorable John C. Whitaker
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Whitaker:

I have discussed the Mormon Battalion Trail Study with members of the New Mexico State Planning Office's Outdoor Recreation Division. We find your recommendations well considered. I am forwarding the report to the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission (re: establishment of a trail in Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake State Parks), and to the Cultural Properties Review Committee (re: the proposed addition of the Mormon Battalion Trail to the New Mexico State Register).

Let me know if I can be of further service to you.

Sincerely,

Bruce King

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

NORMAN B. LIVERMORE, JR.
SECRETARY

RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RESOURCES BUILDING
1416 NINTH STREET
95814

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Navigation and
Ocean Development
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

Air Resources Board
Colorado River Board
San Francisco Bay Conservation and
Development Commission
Solid Waste Management Board
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

OCT 1 8 1974

Mr. John C. Whittaker
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Whittaker:

The State of California has reviewed the draft report, Mormon Battalion Trail Study, prepared by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation pursuant to the National Trails System Act PL90-543. The trail route traverses a portion of California in Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties. The Bureau concludes that the trail route does not qualify as a recreation trail route for the entire length and should be marked as a historic trail. Portions of the trail route within parks or recreation areas could be developed and administered as recreation trails. California concurs with these conclusions and will be able to assist in the marking of the route in this state. Will you please provide the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation copies of the final report. That Department and the State Historical Resources Commission will be marking historic routes of travel.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Maga

for Secretary for Resources

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

206 South Seventeenth Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007

JACK WILLIAMS
Governor

HIGHWAYS DIVISION

WILLIAM A. ORDWAY
Director

November 4, 1974

Mr. John C. Whitaker
Acting Secretary of Interior
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Mormon Battalion Trail Study
D-3819 - August 1974
Arizona State Identifier 74-80-0065

Dear Mr. Whitaker:

The Environmental Planning Services of the Highways Division, Arizona Department of Transportation, has reviewed the Mormon Battalion Trail Study, Sant Fe to San Diego, prepared by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

We concur with the study as written. When one considers the conditions which now exist along much of this 2,000 mile trail, it would appear it is now too late to treat this entire route as a national scenic or historic trail in keeping with requirements established in Public Law 90-543 - October 2, 1968.

The portion of the trail which crosses the entire State of Arizona certainly presents many problems in meeting the four major criteria established by the Interagency Task Force on the National System of Trails for developing national scenic trails. It would appear more realistic to pursue the alternative recommended in the study which states, "Selected portions of the historic route can be identified and interpreted by the coordinated efforts of appropriate Federal, State and local government agencies along with elements of the private sector." This practice has already started in Arizona with interpretative plaques being placed at meaningful points along the highway system enabling the traveling public to pause and realize they are traveling along the route used by the early Mormon Battalion under much more adverse conditions.

Many miles of Mormon Battalion Trail traverse over an area in the southwestern portion of Arizona where the land surface is covered by sparse southern desert scrub, often reaching over 100°F during the summer months, void of available water and hazardous to potential trail riders who do not have the physical stamina and supplies to carry them through. Each summer persons do die on this desert when they start out walking without adequate water, food and protective clothing.

We note the study indicates "where the Battalion left the San Pedro River to turn toward Tucson their historic route picks up and generally follows the right of way of Interstate 10. North of Tucson, the route parallels the Interstate 10 right of way for 50 miles. Here a railroad right of way follows along the highway. In the far southwest corner of Arizona the historical route once again is adjacent to a highway alignment, this time Interstate 8, for several miles on both sides of the Town of Yuma." If indeed this historical route actually traverses over the exact right of way now containing these important highways and railroad, it doesn't meet the requirement specified in Public Law 90-543-October 2, 1968, Section 4, Paragraph C, which states "the use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any national scenic trail shall be prohibited and nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the use of motorized vehicles within the natural and historical areas of the national park system, the national wildlife refuge system, the national wilderness preservation system where they are presently prohibited or on other Federal lands where trails are designated as being closed to such use by the appropriate Secretary."

The Arizona Department of Transportation has several projects planned during the next five years and more will probably be necessary beyond that for necessary improving and upgrading Interstate 10 and Interstate 8 including segments that lie along the portions of the historic route mentioned above. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of portions of the Five-Year Construction Program for the Arizona Department of Transportation, Highways Division, for Fiscal Year 1974-75 outlining these pertinent projects. Also enclosed is a copy of portions of the Arizona Department of Transportation Complete Project Numbering Reference dated July 1974 showing future work involving the highways in the study area.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

Yours very truly,

WM. N. PRICE
State Engineer

Mason J. Toles

MASON J. TOLES, Manager
Environmental Planning Services

MJT:ADG:jh

Enclosures

cc: Mrs. Constance LaMonica, DEPAD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

October 23, ~~1974~~

Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: D3819-Mormon Battalion Trail

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Mormon Battalion Trail Study report.

We concur with the recommendation on page 5 of the report which states that the route of the Mormon Battalion is neither suitable nor desirable for designation as part of the National Trails System.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Long
Assistant Secretary for Conservation,
Research and Education

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS

8 OCT 1974

Honorable John C. Whitaker
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 16, 1974, to Secretary Schlesinger regarding the "Mormon Battalion Trail Study" and to advise that we have no comment on the proposed report thereon to the President and the Congress.

We do appreciate your courtesy in making this study available for our review.

Sincerely,

Barry H. Bailey

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Logistics)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

23 OCT 1974

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Morton:

Administrator Train has referred your letter of September 16, 1974, and the enclosed "Mormon Battalion Trail Study" to me for review.

Based on our review of the material provided, we foresee no serious adverse environmental impacts and support the Bureau's recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this material. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca W. Hammer

for Sheldon Meyers
Director
Office of Federal Activities

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

SEP 30 1974

Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Department of the Interior's proposed reports on the Old Cattle Trails of the Southwest and the Mormon Battalion Trail, conducted pursuant to the National Trails System Act. We have no substantive comment to make on either report.

Although you are not recommending designation of any of these trails under the National Trails System Act, the research and evaluation in these reports have a great deal of intrinsic interest and should prove helpful to a variety of State and local transportation, recreation, and historic preservation agencies. We are forwarding the reports to the Federal Highway Administration for information.

Sincerely,

Ben Davis

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety, and
Consumer Affairs

BLM Library
Bldg. 50
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, Colorado 80225